

Message Text

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ORIGIN INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 NEA-10 DODE-00
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APPROVED BY EUR/RPM:HAHOLMES
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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, PFOR, XA

SUBJECT: CASTRO'S AFRICAN TOUR

REF: USNATO 1674

FOLLOWING ANALYSIS PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO SYG LUNS'
REQUEST (REFTEL).

1.) THE PRINCIPAL RESULTS OF CASTRO'S TRIP SEEM TO BE:

-- A RAPPROCHEMENT WITH QADHAFI, WHICH MAY BRING
ABOUT INCREASED CUBAN-LIBYAN COOPERATION;
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-- A PROBABLE DECISION TO PROVIDE SOME CUBAN
MILITARY AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA'S HARD-
PRESSED MILITARY REGIME;

-- A PLEDGE OF CONTINUED (AND POSSIBLY, INCREASED)
CUBAN ASSISTANCE TO MOZAMBIQUE AND SUPPORT FOR RHODESIAN

NATIONALIST AND OTHER REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

2. THE TOUR WAS NOT AN UNQUALIFIED TRIUMPH, SINCE CASTRO'S FAILURE TO SHOW UP IN ZAMBIA BRUISED FEELINGS THERE.

NEVERTHELESS, THE FAVORABLE RECEPTION THAT HE RECEIVED IN AFRICAN CAPITALS HAS PROBABLY STRENGTHENED HIS RESOLVE TO EXPAND CUBA'S PRESENCE IN THAT CONTINENT.

3. CASTRO'S 10-COUNTRY TOUR (ALGERIA, LIBYA, SOUTH YEMEN, SOMALIA, ETHIOPIA, TANZANIA, MOZAMBIQUE, ANGOLA, EAST GERMANY, AND THE USSR), WHICH BEGAN A MONTH AGO, APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKEN BOTH TO ASSESS THE RESULTS OF CUBA'S ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION AND TO SEEK NEW OPENINGS FOR CUBAN MILITARY AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

4. DISCUSSIONS WITH QADHAFI MAY HAVE RESULTED IN AN AGREEMENT TO DISPATCH A LIMITED NUMBER OF CUBAN MILITARY PERSONNEL TO TRAIN LIBYAN FORCES. CASTRO AND QADHAFI MAY ALSO HAVE AGREED TO COMBINE LIBYAN FINANCIAL RESOURCES WITH CUBAN EXPERTISE IN ORDER TO FURTHER MUTUALLY DESIRABLE OBJECTIVES ELSEWHERE. POSSIBLE CANDIDATES FOR SUCH ASSISTANCE MIGHT INCLUDE ETHIOPIA AND UGANDA. IN ANY EVENT, THE INVITATION TO CASTRO REPRESENTS A MAJOR SHIFT IN QADHAFI'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE CUBAN LEADER, ALTHOUGH MISGIVINGS ABOUT CASTRO'S SOVIET TIES PROBABLY STILL REMAIN.

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5. CASTRO'S VISIT TO ADDIS ABABA PROBABLY INDICATES THAT CUBAN MILITARY AND TECHNICAL ADVISERS WILL BE PROVIDED TO BOLSTER MENGISTU'S REVOLUTIONARY MILITARY REGIME, THOUGH WE DOUBT THAT CASTRO WOULD COMMIT CUBAN COMBAT FORCES TO FIGHT AGAINST ERITREAN INSURGENTS. CASTRO'S APPARENT ATTEMPT TO BRING ABOUT A SOMALI-ETHIOPIAN RAPPROCHEMENT ALMOST CERTAINLY AROSE FROM CUBAN AND SOVIET CONCERNS OVER THE ADVERSE SOMALI REACTION TO GROWING SOVIET AND CUBAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA, BUT HE APPARENTLY DID NOT SUCCEED IN OVERCOMING MUTUAL SUSPICIONS.

6. CASTRO WAS WELL RECEIVED IN BOTH TANZANIA AND MOZAMBIQUE, WHERE HIS VISITS PRECEDED BY ONLY A FEW DAYS THE ARRIVAL OF PODGORNYY. CASTRO'S CAUTIOUS STATEMENTS ON CUBAN SUPPORT FOR RHODESIAN AND OTHER BLACK NATIONALISTS REFLECTED BOTH NYERERE'S OPPOSITION TO DIRECT INVOLVEMENT BY NON-AFRICAN FORCES AND

MACHEL'S CONCERN OVER RHODESIAN RAIDS INTO MOZAMBIQUE. IT SEEMS LIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT AS A CONSEQUENCE OF CASTRO'S TALKS WITH MACHEL, CUBA'S MILITARY PRESENCE IN MOZAMBIQUE WILL GROW BEYOND THE FEW HUNDRED NOW BELIEVED THERE.

7. CASTRO SPENT OVER A WEEK IN ANGOLA CONFERRING WITH

MPLA OFFICIALS AND VISITING CUBAN MILITARY FORCES. THERE WAS NO HINT OF ANY INTENTIONS TO REDUCE THE LEVEL OF CUBAN INVOLVEMENT THERE. AFTER MEETING WITH CASTRO IN LUANDA, NAMIBIAN NATIONALIST LEADER SAM NUJOMA STATED THAT CUBAN SUPPORT AND MATERIAL AID HAD BEEN PROMISED TO SWAPO, THE ZIMBABWE PATRIOTIC FRONT, AND THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS OF SOUTH AFRICA.

8. THE MOSCOW TALKS WERE CONCERNED PRIMARILY WITH
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AFRICA, ALTHOUGH OTHER SUBJECTS SUCH AS US-CUBAN RELATIONS PROBABLY WERE DISCUSSED. SOVIET COMMENTARY ON THE TALKS SUGGESTS THAT MOSCOW INTENDS TO PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY ON EXPANDING ITS INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA, BUT CUBAN ACTIVITIES ARE SEEN AS BASICALLY IN HARMONY WITH SOVIET OBJECTIVES.

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